

# King County Parks **Your Big Backyard**

*Community centers traditionally have been a place for children to build relationships & learn the skills that help them succeed in life. In the 21st century, providing recreation activities that teach our children about team work is not longer enough to level the playing field. We want to provide them with a place to learn the additional skills of tomorrow.*

- What would a 21st century community center look like?
- What does "community" mean to you?
- How do you interact with your community?
- What is unique about your community?
- What activities help build community?
- How does community help build people?

*This is what we see. What do you see? What could this center mean for a transitioning neighborhood? a family new to the community? a struggling child?*

A hub for 21st century communities ~ an after school community center & daytime center for families. Family & community programs include technology classes, a parents' guild, summer camp, skill building workshops by corporate & community partners, volunteer program, college prep program, recreational activities and more. The Community & Learning Center (CLC) at Lakewood Park will be both the headquarters for the Technology Access Foundation and provide facilities for some of its programs. The CLC also brings a steward to Lakewood Park and provides a high tech facility available to neighborhood groups.

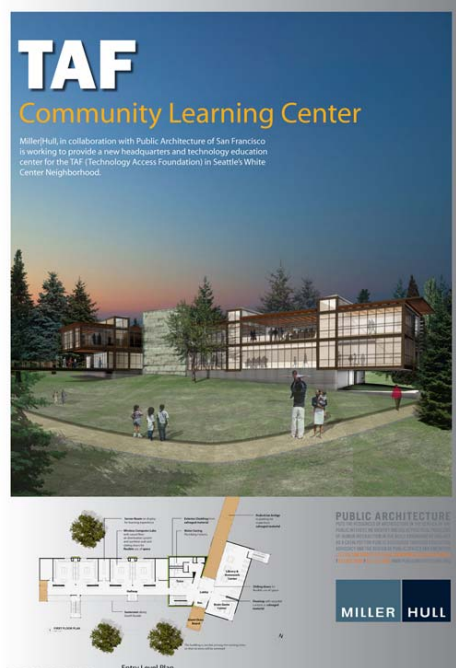
## When

Construction will begin once matching funds are secured – target spring 2007.

## Cost

Total project is around \$13M. King County has donated a grant of \$2M and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation donated a grant of \$1M right out of the gate. TAF is raising remaining funds in both cash contributions and services

*Could we turn outdated materials into an efficient new resource?*



A flagship for green building and conservation education.

The project team would like to identify objects and buildings that are significant in the life of the community to incorporate in an artful way throughout the new center. There will be opportunities for the community to contribute materials as well as participate in the construction of art pieces that will integral elements to the building.

A thoughtful design process to create a building geared to secure the next generation's future while giving a clear nod to a rich & unique past. The building is sited such as to be minimally intrusive, respecting the adjacent housing and existing tree groves.

Our Community & Learning Center will be a world class building, incorporating the most advanced thinking of sustainable technologies and creativity that is representative of the innovation and passion for excellence that is a hallmark of both TAF and King County Parks.

*What could a community center look like? Could it give communities a bright place but also give kids a bright future? What could we create if we got the right partners involved? We want to find out. Join us.*

### Project Design Team

The team is led by **Miller Hull Partnership**, a Seattle architecture firm nationally regarded as a leader in sustainable design. Miller Hull was the recipient of the prestigious 2003 Architecture Firm Award from the American Institute of Architects.

The team has the support of San Francisco-based nonprofit **Public Architecture** - where architects can work for the public good. They seek projects where both client needs and financing must be imagined in new ways.

We continue to work with community organizations to make sure the final design reflects the community & its needs. Thank you to **White Center Arts Alliance, CADA, Youth Media Institute, Friends of Lake Hicks, Greenbridge and others** who have offered ideas so far.

### Technology Access Foundation (TAF)

TAF has a 10 year history of developing and delivering after-school programs that instill K-12 students with the





critical thinking and technology skills they will need to thrive in the 21st century. TAF's numbers speak volumes:

100% high school graduation and college acceptance rates  
100% of participants significantly improve their proficiency  
85% retention rate across all TAF programs  
Over 1250 have been trained in one of TAF's programs  
More than 220 teens have successfully completed paid technical internships

TAF offers fun, age-appropriate programs that boost math literacy, technology fluency, critical thinking, problem solving, & information synthesis skills.

### **King County Parks**

A major funding crisis in 2002 presented King County Parks the opportunity to refocus with an emphasis on things they do best. King County Parks continues to be the key provider of regional parks, natural lands and trails -- specializing in finding strategic partners who will work with the county to increase community & park amenities without increasing ongoing operations costs. Parks' award winning accomplishments have been realized through a deliberate strategy to build authentic and sustainable partnerships.

